



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

outside of the thickly inhabited portion of the country the mail in the centers of population would amount to but a small fraction of its present volume.

Equally significant is Mr. Newcomb's second misconception. In both the quotations given above the idea is conveyed that a sharp geographical division of the country and people is possible. In the first quotation he says, "The citizens of New York . . . have never protested because the revenues to which they contribute so generously are diverted to the support of the extremely costly services that are rendered in Alaska and in the pan-handle of Texas." The people of New York have as much need of communication with those of the remote portions of the country as the latter have with the former. Neither community can live by itself. The very example selected by the author disproves his contention. He says, "The cost of *sending* each of the letters composing the first lot of mail sent to Circle City, Alaska, is reported as \$450." The proposition that the business of the Post-Office Department could be done at less cost were all the people settled on a limited amount of territory is one that probably no one would question.

GEORGE G. TUNELL.

Le Coton. Par HENRI LECOMTE. Paris: Carré et C. Naud, 1900.
8vo, pp. viii + 494.

THE reader of M. Lecomte's work scarcely knows whether to be more impressed by the modesty of the writer, or by the generous action of French Academies when he notes the author's statement in the preface that, owing to the confessedly incomplete character of the work, he would not have dared to give it to the public had it not won the hearty approval of *L'Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques*, by which august body the work was crowned. To be serious, however, M. Lecomte's book seems well deserving of the praise accorded to it. Without being exhaustive, it appears to be well prepared and covers in a brief but satisfactory manner the whole field of the cotton industry, treating of the culture of the plant in all the countries of the world where it is carried on, and of its manufacture in all the principal countries of Europe, Asia, and America.

Although the author devotes more space to describing the culture of cotton in the United States than to that of any other country, the

several short chapters given over to this subject do not suffice to more than mention the best known facts and any discussion of the economic aspects of the situation is impossible. He does, however, notice in a page or two the influence of the credit system upon the culture of cotton and mentions the fact that the culture of this staple is being gradually abandoned by the negroes. His statement that cotton culture in the United States is now everywhere conducted according to scientific principles and that there is always an attempt made to restore the fertility of the soil by the use of chemical fertilizers is certainly far from correct. In some parts of the country there are still employed practically the same methods of clearing and cultivating the land that were in vogue during colonial times, and the use of fertilizers of any kind is unknown.

M. Lecomte reproaches American packers with having mixed cotton from Alabama, Texas, and Tennessee with the genuine grade known as Louisiana and which commands a higher price. This practice, he says, is very detrimental to the cotton industry as in the hands of the spinner these mixed cottons prove to be inferior to the genuine Louisiana.

The treatment of the cotton culture in other countries is very brief, only the most general facts being given. An exception must be made of Egypt which is dealt with at some length, because this country is often cited as an example of what France may hope to accomplish in her African possessions. Climate and means of irrigation, our author thinks, have given Egypt unusual advantages for cotton culture, though, owing to the limitations imposed by the necessity of irrigation, the 1,250,000 acres cultivated in 1894-5 represent about the maximum surface that can be utilized. The author reviews the attempts made by the French government to stimulate cotton culture in Algeria by means of premiums and other inducements and shows that when these aids were withdrawn the culture ceased. He does not believe that either the climate, the character of the inhabitants, or the cost of labor favors the culture of cotton in Algeria and that new attempts to raise cotton there would be doomed to failure. He is of the opinion, however, that upper Senegal and the Soudan offer the possibility of a cotton culture as successful as that carried on by the Russians in Turkestan.

Far more promising appears the outlook in the French colony of India-China. At present the modes of cultivation in this province are so primitive that the results attained have been small. But the growing

importance of the Japanese manufacture offers an important market and the condition of soil and the quality of the cotton produced give our author reason for believing that the exploitation of cotton culture in India-China is worth the serious attention of French capitalists.

The most notable feature in the recent history of the cotton culture and trade of India is the decline in the exportations to England and the European continent and the rapid increase in shipments to Japan. In 1889-90, of the Indian exportations from Bombay, England received 23.7 per cent., the Continent 71.7 per cent., China and Japan, 2.5 per cent. In 1897-8, England's share had fallen to 9.4 per cent., that of the Continent to 49.4 per cent., while Japan and China now received 45.2 per cent. The exportations from Bombay to Japan alone were 354,000 bales as compared with 53,000 bales in 1890-1.

M. Lecomte seems very anxious that more strenuous efforts be made to cultivate cotton in the French Asiatic and African colonies. This would serve not only as an important source of supply for the French cotton industry, but it might aid in the growth of a French merchant marine. The crisis in which French merchant shipping finds itself, our author thinks, is due in great part to the fact that the French colonies do not produce enough raw material for French industries, while the foreign countries ship their products to France in their own bottoms.

In the amount of cotton consumed and yarn and goods produced the French cotton manufacture is surpassed by that of England, the United States, and even, at times, by that of Russia. But it is none the less a fortunate thing that M. Lecomte has devoted about half of the space which he accords to the cotton manufacture to that of his own country. The history of the English and of the German cotton industry has been well presented by other writers, but of the French industry we know but little. The French cotton industry was established almost as early as that of England, but the progress of invention in England was more rapid, while the legal and commercial restrictions placed on the French industry, especially the high tariffs on raw cotton, have caused a slower development in France than has taken place across the channel. In recent times France has also suffered by the loss of her great cotton manufacturing districts to Germany. The French cotton industry of today is to be found in three principal regions, Normandy, the north of France, and the Vosges Mountains. There are no satisfactory statistics giving the number of spindles and looms in France,

but the number of spindles is known to exceed three million. After the Franco-Prussian war, which resulted in the loss of Alsace, a number of Alsatian spinners left their old homes to take up their residence on this side of the Vosges. Since that time the French industry has grown at a rapid rate, and has been but little retarded by French customs legislation.

Although the amount of cotton manufactured in France is less than one fifth that of England, M. Lecomte thinks that, when the loss of Alsace is allowed for, the growth of the French industry since 1860 has been much greater than that of the English manufacture. The reasons for this growth are somewhat difficult to discover. M. Lecomte draws a lengthy comparison between the costs of establishment and operation in the spinning industries of England and those of France with the results as follows :

	England	France
Cost of first establishment per spindle	28.00 fr.	48.00 fr.
Cost of fuel per spindle - - -	0.43 "	1.22 "
Cost of labor per spindle - - -	3.72 "	4.60 "
Other costs per spindle - - -	0.21 "	0.46 "

In addition to these advantages the English spinners enjoy the benefits of cheaper materials and cheaper transportation. The Continental spinners have been obliged to work longer hours to overcome these disadvantages. M. Lecomte believes, however, that the disadvantages of the French industry are in the main due not to national causes, but to the restrictive policy followed in France. Protected against foreign competition by high tariffs, French manufacturers have not kept abreast of the times. The high costs in French establishments are due in large part to the fact that the manufacturers are still using old machinery and antiquated methods.

Cotton spinning in the most recent years, our author points out, tends to become located in the new countries, where the labor is less irksome than in Europe, and he gives expression to the opinion that this branch of the cotton manufacture has reached its maximum importance in both England and France.

Cotton weaving in France seems to have made considerable progress within recent years, and the exportation of cotton goods has also made some advance. The chief outside market for French cotton is Algiers. The other colonies do not seem to have patronized the mother country to any great extent. M. Lecomte urges the French manufacturers to

endeavor to secure to themselves the trade of the new colonies, especially those of Africa, before the English and Germans get their own cottons introduced to such an extent that a change in the commercial habits of the people of the colonies will be difficult.

M. B. HAMMOND.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

The End of Villainage in England. By THOMAS WALKER PAGE.

(Published by the Macmillan Company for the American Economic Association), New York, 1900. 8vo, pp. 99.

IN this interesting and instructive contribution to English economic history any discussion of its merits will largely be concerned with the author's main argument: that the Black Death was the chief agency in putting an end to villainage in England (pp. 48-65, with accompanying tables). The Black Death having figured so often and so prominently as an economic factor, it might be of interest to see how far in this case at least, this much honored theory holds good. Mr. Page points out, that by the tremendous loss of life, labor became very dear, money as it were became relatively cheap; and as an inducement to the surviving villains to stay, or to new villains to supplant them the lords offered commutation of predial service into a fixed money rent. To some students of this question, however, the crux of the change in the status of the villain lies in the fact that the villain had an opportunity to go away and stay away, not primarily in the conditions caused by the effects of the Black Death. The plague settled matters so to speak, but the causes for its succeeding in settling them lay elsewhere. Of course, Mr. Page has had to do with accounts from the large estates, records (which by the way are not at everybody's disposal); what they say, they say, and whatever is not in them, one has no right to look for. They clearly say that labor became exceedingly scarce after the plague and one is bound to pay attention to this. But provided that the reports of which Mr. Page speaks concern the year 1348-9 and not a number of years, such as one should suppose, it appears very strange indeed, that during so short a term, one year, "meadows should relapse into their former condition of swamp and fen," etc. (p. 50). For such a condition years are needed, to say the least, repeated and prolonged disasters, not one only. The suggestion may be permitted that the disheartened writer of accounts